

Minutes of the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering
Conference Call
February 20, 2018

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m.

- Walter Olson outlined the agenda and shared documents with the callers
 - Noted March 4th publication of map and proposed plan
- Judge Williams mentioned Attorney General's appeal to the Supreme Court
 - Mentioned the Commission's three public hearings held
 - Noted that the public expressed interest in wanting to return to boundaries that more closely mirror the 2000 map
- Luis Gutierrez posed the question of whether to do a two-district solution or all eight districts
- Matt Douglas mentioned keeping rural communities together
 - Minimize county splitting, Frederick should be in District Six entirely
 - Mentioned bringing Carroll back into Six and says it demographically matches better as does NW Montgomery County
 - Wanted to draw all eight districts, but understood the practicality and time constraints
- Maury Epner proposed drawing the Sixth with the following:
 - Include the four corners area of Montgomery or the four corners of Howard
 - Felt it is inevitable that Montgomery will be divided because of population numbers
- Chris Howard wanted a fair map and leaned away from dividing Montgomery
 - Wanted northern rural areas and Carroll together
- Deborah Lundahl mentioned a desire to return all of Frederick to District Six
- Ashley Oleson reiterated that people just want fair lines
 - Priority to compact the districts
 - Didn't think that drawing all eight districts falls under the language of the executive order
- Walter Olson mentioned the different options for the splitting of counties
 - Specifically, the Carroll and Montgomery options
 - Explained the domino effect of changing other district lines outside of the two-district solution
- Kathleen Tabor believed the charge of the Commission is narrow in scope
 - Not opposed to drawing all eight districts, but didn't believe that was the original charge
- Judge Williams favored the two or three-district solution
- Luis Gutierrez echoed Walter's comments of the domino effect of drawing the districts around the Sixth
- Ashley Oleson expressed concern as to not overstep the Executive Order
- Walter Olson noted the need to make sure the Commission involves the communities that they may alter
- Kathleen Tabor further noted that the areas and communities currently split need reunification
- Walter Olson discussed narrowing down the options of what the Commission is going to do
- Kathleen Tabor reiterated the want for minimal impact and a two or three-district solution
- Walter Olson called for a consensus or a vote for minimal impact
 - Commission came to the consensus that their map is going to be a one cycle map at best, due to the census in 2020
 - Maury expressed an inclination to dissent on the consensus for a minimal impact solution, but joined the consensus noting that there would be injustices left on the table

- Walter mentioned that the current idea is Germantown in Six and Montgomery Village in Eight
- Kathleen Tabor asked about the timeline and March 1st meeting
 - Walter Olson stated he would like to reach a consensus by March 1st to provide room in case of unforeseeable problems
 - Commission agreed to meet March 1st to vote on final map
- Commission came to the consensus on wanting to keep all of Frederick in the Sixth
 - Kathleen Tabor stated wanting to keep the door open for Howard if it is a solution
- Secretary McCord volunteered to check to see how the software is doing and to make sure that all plans submitted by the public get to the Commission as they come in
- Matt Douglas mentioned the map of rural and urban populations that Planning put together and would love to have an online version available
- Commission also noted that school district lines could provide a good parameter as well
- Walter Olson called for adjournment with no objection

Commission Adjourns at 11:34 a.m.

Next Meeting: March 1st at 10 a.m.

Wineland Building, Annapolis